UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/816,640	03/22/2001	Shinji Fujiwara	16869B017410	7097

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TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW, LLP
TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER
EIGHTH FLOOR
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834

EXAMINER
RIMELL, SAMUEL G

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2165	

DATE MAILED: 08/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/816,640	FUJIWARA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Sam Rimell	2165	

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____ .
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
   closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) *7-11 and 21-31* is/are pending in the application.
   4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) *7-11, 21-31* is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.
    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
       application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

SAM RIMELL
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Attachment(s)
1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ .
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____ .

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 7-11 and 21-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lei et

al. (U.S. Patent 6,487,552).

Claim 7: Col. 14, lines 4-20 illustrate two queries (Q3 and Q4) made in structured query

language (SQL). The queries are made on a relational database (202) having a table (204) which

defines rows and columns.

The query Q3 includes a SELECT statement (the command "SELECT *") and a

SELECT clause (the predicate "from t"). The term "t" refers to an entire table, and thus

references all the columns in the table "t". Also see the definition of the term "SELECT *" as

defined in *Modern Database Management,* as attached to this action. It means to select all the

columns from a defined table, in this case, the table "t".

In the modified query (Q4), the column references of "t" are replaced by a mask function

"t.lang", which corresponds to a specific language in the table "t". This causes specific columns

in the table "t" to be selected. The access policy is "Get Context Value (Language) which

determines which columns are selected (col. 14, lines 19-20).

The result is the query result, which is a set of rows and columns limited to a specific

language defined in the mask function.

Claim 8: The query Q4 includes a WHERE clause.

Claim 9: FIG. 2 illustrates a database server which receives the queries from the clients.

Claim 10-11: The actual replacement of the query with a modified query are as occurring on the server side of the system (col. 9, lines 62-64). However, col. 18, lines 11-14 describe an option where the functions are distributed on the client side, so the functionality can actually be placed on either the client side or the server side of the client-server architecture.

Claim 21: Col. 14, lines 52-55 illustrate two different queries (Q5 and Q6) made in structured query language (SQL). The queries are made on a relational database (202) having a table (204) which defines rows and columns.

A first database query Q5 is received which will access the table (204). The query includes a SELECT clause (the command "SELECT*") and a FROM clause (the predicate "from t"). The FROM clause identifies all the columns from the table "t". The SELECT clause identifies any of the columns which are defined in the FROM clause. In modified query Q6, a mask function is defined by the combination of commands:

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WHERE t.dept_no=GetContextValue(dept_id)
AND     1=2
```

to produce the modified query Q6. A different query result is produced by the query Q6 as compared to the query Q5.

Claim 22: In comparing the queries Q5 and Q6, the WHERE clause is unchanged.

Claim 23: See remarks for claim 9.

Claim 24-25: See remarks for claim 10-11.

Claim 26: The access policy is the trigger statement "AND 1=2", which is a false statement that prevents the tables from being accessed when this policy is added.

Claim 27: See remarks for claim 21.

Claim 28-30: See remarks for claim 10-11.

Claim 31: Both the queries Q5 and Q6 include a WHERE clause.

Remarks

Applicant's arguments have been considered.

With respect to claim 7, applicant argues that Lei et al. does not teach features of claim 7. As understood, applicant is alleging that that Lei et al. does not teach a SELECT statement having a SELECT clause comprising one or more column references. Examiner maintains that Lei et al. teaches exactly these features. The query Q3 in Lei et al. includes the SQL statement:

SELECT* from t

The portion "SELECT " is the SELECT statement and the portion "from t" is the SELECT clause. According to the definition provided by *Modern Database Management* (attached to this action) the "*" is a wildcard indicating that all of the columns in the specified table are selected, which means that one or more column references are made. This meets the limitations of claim 7. The entire SQL statement means that all the columns from the table "t" are selected, meeting the limitations of claim 7. However, applicant argues that the "SELECT clause" is the phrase "SELECT *", not "from t". While the examiner does not agree with this interpretation based on the language used in this claim, even if it were the interpretation, Lei et al. would still read on claim 7. The phrase "SELECT *" means that all columns of a given table are selected. This would still read on the requirement in claim 7 for "one or more column references" made by the SELECT clause.

Also with respect to claim 7, and as understood, applicant argues that Lei et al. lacks the requirement in claim 7 that the mask function produce a modified query that has modified column references. Applicant argues that the mask function in Lei et al. makes only row references, not column references. This argument is not entirely correct. The mask function is the WHERE clause shown in query Q4. The description of this WHERE clause is provided at col. 14, lines17-20. While it is true that WHERE clause selects certain rows, it also restricts to certain columns as well (see the phrase "where the value in the "lang" column equals the current value of the Language contest attribute—col. 14, lines 19-20). Thus, the masking function makes reference to certain specific columns, not just specific rows.

With respect to claim 21, applicant arguments parallel those presented with respect to claim 7. Examiner maintains that query Q5 has a SELECT (SELECT*) clause and a FROM clause (FROM t), as explained in the office action herein. The wildcard associated with the SELECT clause means that all the columns from the table t are selected, meeting the claimed requirement for "one or more column references".

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Sam Rimell at telephone number (571) 272-4084.

Sam Rimell
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2165